



**The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford**

the CARPENTER

Tel: 01279 654063 | Email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2ND

Parish Office: Monday—Friday 9am to 3pm—Administrator, Mrs Debbie Jackson

Catechetical Co-ordinator— Mrs Sophie Sullivan

www.rcstortford.org.uk

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

8 May 2022

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (*Parish Priest*)
Fr Antonio Pineda (*Asst Priest*)

PRAY FOR UKRAINE



Calling All Golfers!
The Charity Golf Day is back....



FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022
at
GREAT HADHAM COUNTRY CLUB.

*Starting with coffee and bacon rolls,
18 holes of golf and carvery dinner in
the evening - all for £60.*

*Previous players will receive an
email from David Wilkinson.*

*For more info contact
wilkinsondavid@mac.com or
Angela Tyson on
angelatyson2021@hotmail.com.*

Come and join us at
St Joseph's for ADORATION of the
Blessed Sacrament and take the
opportunity to celebrate the



Sacrament of RECONCILIATION

each Saturday
with one of our
priests
between
3pm and 4pm

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



PRIEST TRAINING FUND COLLECTION—This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year four men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

WELCOME BACK AND THANK YOU – to Mgr. Harry Turner who joins us this weekend to celebrate Mass whilst Fr Peter is away.

ACROSS—This weekend after all Masses at St Joseph's we will have the opportunity to hear more about the wonderful work of Across – a local organisation which takes people with special care needs on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Some of the Across team have just returned from a trip to this beautiful place and would love to tell you a bit more about it, in anticipation of our own parish pilgrimage with Across planned for October 2022. As a special one-off, they will also be serving donuts after every Mass outside the church. Bacon rolls & hot drinks will be on offer in the parish hall after the 9am & 11am Masses.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD GOSPEL CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT—An evening of musical entertainment at the Charis Centre, CM23 2JZ on Saturday 14 May 2022 at 7pm. Tickets £6 and can be purchased on the door or online www.ccbs.churchsuite.com/events/yql48yzb
VACANCY—SUBJECT LEADER OF RE AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL— Full Time - MPS/UPS (Fringe) + TLR1c (£10,199) Pay Award Pending. Commencing September 2022 - CLOSING DATE: Tuesday 17 May 2022 10am <https://bit.ly/3FqhndE>.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AFTER MORNING MASS – Starting Wednesday, 11 May there will be an opportunity for coffee in the WCC from 10am-11.30am. Just drop in – catch up with old friends or make new ones! We look forward to seeing you. Any queries call Alison Jones on 01279 755792

BRAZILIAN SOIRÉE—Thursday 12 May 7.30pm- 10pm South Mill Arts Centre in aid of Meninadanca's work with girls on Brazil's exploitation highway. Music, dance, food & drink. £15pp (under 16 £5). Book at meninadanca.org/bishopsstortford or Charlotte on 07738234042

Please remember to complete a Parish Census Form for your household— Thank you very much!
OR preferably you can do it online via our website, it only takes a few minutes..
www.rcstortford.org.uk/register

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!

We would like to be in the position, to be able to start to offer regular refreshments after Mass again at St Joseph's, HOWEVER, this is completely reliant on parishioners being willing and able to volunteer to help to make this happen. It would involve setting up, serving tea/coffee, clearing away and cleaning the hall/kitchen afterwards and ensuring that the WCC is left clean and secure after each session. The more volunteers we have to be able to share the tasks each week to run a rota system, the better! If you would like to come and join the team, get involved to serve others and make new friends, please let Father or the Parish office know. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

At 3pm Sunday 22 May

HOLY CROSS

There will be a short service of thanksgiving in St Andrew's / Holy Cross, Church Lane, Much Hadham, to mark the departure of the Daughters of the Cross of Liege from St Elizabeth's Home, and to give thanks for all the Sisters' work there since 1903. All are invited. Tea will be served afterwards

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Fourth Sunday of Easter

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. This is because in the Gospel Jesus refers to us as his sheep which makes him our Shepherd. He says that he will give us eternal life and that we will never be lost. A Good Shepherd indeed!

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also celebrated as Vocations Sunday. The Good Shepherd needs helpers — fellow shepherds — to lead his flock. At the Last Supper, he celebrated the first Mass and appointed the first priests and he said, "Do this in memory of me". This means that our Lord always intended for his Church to have priests, to be there in persona christi, until he (the Eternal Priest) returns.

Furthermore, Jesus instructed: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38). On Vocations Sunday, we are invited to do just this. We are asked to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life so that the Church will continue to have shepherds who will lead the flock to Christ. Our prayers should also translate into action because we are also urged to support our seminarians, our future priests. Their training costs a lot of money (roughly £50 a day) and their formation takes several years.

Vocations Sunday is also a reminder of the beautiful reality that it is not just priests or nuns who have vocations. We all have vocations, given to us by God to make us the person we are meant to be. The UK Priest website (www.ukpriest.org) defines vocation as "a call from God to holiness through a particular way of life, be that marriage, consecrated life or priesthood. When a person responds positively to this call, they embrace the identity that God intended for them from the moment of conception. They take a step closer to becoming the person God created them to be."

Some are called to be teachers, some musicians, some office workers ... Whatever our vocation is, God gave us the talent and skills to carry it out. A vocation is something to be embraced and used to fulfil our great Christian commission of spreading the Gospel.

Fr Antonio Pineda